1. Rural and remote Queensland is home to just over 1.65 million Queenslanders from diverse backgrounds.
2. While some communities in rural and remote areas are thriving and growing, others are facing significant adversity and uncertainty and are at risk of experiencing lower levels of wellbeing. This contributes to higher suicide rates and a higher proportion using alcohol and other drugs. Lower wellbeing can affect the severity and duration of these conditions as well as the ability to recover increasing demand on acute mental health and other support services.
3. The *Queensland Rural and Remote Mental Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2016–18* aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing of Queenslanders living in rural and remote communities with a particular focus on reducing the incidence, severity and duration of mental illness, reducing suicide and its impact and preventing and reducing the adverse impact of alcohol and other drugs.
4. Based on evidence of what works and the views of stakeholders, the Action Plan focuses on prevention and early intervention under three priority areas:
* *Better opportunities* to addresses the social determinants of mental health and wellbeing;
* *Community strength* to raise awareness about mental health and support local action;
* *Responsive and accessible services* to enable improve access appropriate support early.
1. The Queensland Mental Health Commission will monitor and report on implementation of the Action Plan.
2. Cabinet endorsed that the Queensland Rural and Remote Mental Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2016–18 be publicly released.
3. *Attachments*
* [*Queensland Rural and Remote Mental Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2016–18*](Attachments/Plan.PDF)